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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Tuesday, January 11, 1977.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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POLAND: We	stern Press on Dissidents
mittee sec	A senior member of the Polish party's Central Com- cretariat told a US embassy representative last week ern press criticism could complicate the Gierek re- corts to deal with dissidence and other delicate do- oblems.
mestic unr	Polish leaders evidently hope they can prevent do- cest from getting out of hand by selectively harass- dual dissidents. Western criticism of the treatment sh dissidents filters into Poland and feeds the un-
ures agair dissidents	The Polish official asserted that only under "excep- cumstances" would the authorities take harsher meas- nst members of the Workers' Defense League and other s. Maintaining that no senior party leader advocates gh policy, he confided frankly that "no one wishes to
tion among party memb dissident Western pro-	The official conceded that it would be naive to supthere is no dissatisfaction over the economic situate workers, farmers, intellectuals, students, and even bers. He added that the most unfortunate aspect of activity is the bad impression it creates in the ress about life in Poland. At the same time, however, ded that the major American news publications have y responsible" in covering internal Polish develop-
mestic sco	Apprehension over Western media coverage of the do- ene could well reflect continuing irritation over s by Radio Free Europe. An article in the Polish

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armed forces newspaper on Thursday accused the US of attempting to increase Radio Free Europe's propaganda capabilities in the post-Helsinki era. A Polish Foreign Ministry official stated that Poland regards the radio's broadcasting as a violation of the Helsinki Final Act.

The domestic opponents of the government, meanwhile, are keeping up their criticism of the authorities. An open letter was sent on Saturday to Polish legislators calling for an investigation into alleged police brutality against workers protesting food price increases last June. The letter was signed by a group of 172 Polish intellectuals—the largest number reported thus far to have endorsed such a petition.

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